OPINION SUMMARY
MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS EASTERN DISTRICT

IN THE INTEREST OF: J.M.J., JR	)	No. ED112446
	)	
	)	Appeal from the Circuit Court
	)	of the City of St. Louis
	)	Cause No. 2322-JU00563
	)	
	)	Honorable Barbara T. Peebles
	)	
	)	FILED: February 25, 2025

J.M.J., a juvenile, appeals from the trial court's judgment certifying him to be prosecuted under the general law. J.M.J. raises three points on appeal. Point One argues the trial court abused its discretion certifying J.M.J. because, contrary to the trial court's finding under § 211.071.6(6), the evidence showed he was not a sophisticated and mature young adult. Point Two contends the trial court abused its discretion in certifying him by not appropriately considering racial disparity pursuant to § 211.071.6(10). Point Three claims the trial court abused its discretion in certifying him because he was denied his right to effective assistance of counsel under § 211.211, in that Certification Counsel failed to retain an expert in child psychiatry and adolescent brain development, whose testimony would have caused the trial court to deny certification.

AFFIRMED.

DIVISION TWO HOLDS: Because the first three critical statutory factors pursuant to § 211.071.6(1)–(3) were uncontested and supported certification, J.M.J. has not shown the trial court's findings as to the sixth and tenth factors demonstrated an abuse of discretion under the totality of the circumstances. We deny Points One and Two. Because J.M.J. has not shown he was deprived a meaningful hearing or prejudiced by Certification Counsel's alleged failure to call an expert, we deny Point Three's claim of ineffective assistance. Accordingly, we affirm the trial court's judgment.

Opinion by: Rebeca M. Navarro-McKelvey, J.
Lisa P. Page, P.J., and Virginia W. Lay, J., concur.

Attorney for Appellant: John S. Appelbaum

Attorney for Respondent: Deborah M. Bird

THIS SUMMARY IS NOT PART OF THE OPINION OF THE COURT. IT HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE READER AND SHOULD NOT BE QUOTED OR CITED.